

Town of Litchfield

Mosquito Control District



PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT

Alfred Raccio
603-320-6743

Press release authorized by the Litchfield board of selectmen.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) tests positive

Litchfield, NH– Following the announcement that a mosquito pool in Litchfield tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), town officials are moving forward with plans to keep the general public informed.

EEE is an illness that is caused by a virus and can spread to people through mosquito bites. Human infection with the virus can cause a range of illness from flu-like symptoms, including fever, headache, and sore throat, to more serious symptoms, such as seizures and coma.

The decision to keep the public informed is one of several actions to prevent human infection.

Alfred Raccio, Litchfield Mosquito Control District Chairman, stated that keeping the citizens of our community informed is the appropriate steps at this point "The town proactively budgets for a control program to address situations like this one," said Raccio. "We have a strong partnership with the schools to share in the information and communication to the citizens of our community, as well as to promote prevention with residents."

Barrier application for mosquitoes is being coordinated with Municipal Past Services, the town contractor for the program. Application will commence following finalizing the coordinated efforts between the school district and the town Notification about application dates and locations will be made in advance of the events, which is likely to focus on field and recreation areas as well as public facilities.

In the meantime, residents are urged to take actions to protect against mosquito bites. Alfred Raccio, Chairman, Mosquito Control District, stressed the importance of mosquito proofing your home by removing standing water. "Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water," said Raccio. "Following heavy rain homeowner and businesses should empty water from buckets, cans, pool covers, and other items."

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Other recommended actions to avoid mosquito bites include:

Limit outdoor activities between dusk and dawn when most mosquitoes bite; Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks when outdoors;

Use insect repellent containing DEET on uncovered skin and clothing; Change water in outdoor pet bowls and birdbaths every few days; Clear clogged rain gutters; and

Check and repair screens on windows and doors.

Information about Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and mosquito and barrier application will be posted on the town web site and Litchfield Cable channels. For more information, contact the Litchfield Public Health at 603 424-4046 or the Mosquito Control District.

